

Historical Photographs of Camp Gruber, Oklahoma



Camp Gruber Cultural Resources Manager
918-549-6224

The following photographs were contributed by Pauline Moore Shivers of Muskogee. Ms. Shivers worked at Camp Gruber as a telephone operator in 1945. The original photographs were returned to Ms. Shivers.



Above: The Telephone Operators' Quarters (TOQ), Camp Gruber, 1945.

Right: Pauline Moore Shivers on the back steps of the TOQ, Camp Gruber, 1945.

Below: The Telephone Business Office in Bragg, where all the telephone operators worked.





Top left: Jerry Cochran Briggs and Cleo Gerhardt Wendt, Telephone Operators, outside of TOQ, Camp Gruber, 1945.

Top center and right: Telephone Operators, outside of TOQ, Camp Gruber, 1945.

Right: Pauline Moore Shivers, Jerry Cochran Briggs, and Cleo Gerhardt Wendt, Telephone Operators, outside of TOQ, Camp Gruber, 1945.



*“We (the telephone operators) even had a car we could use sometimes.”
~ Pauline Moore Shivers*



Top Left: Huntz, Jonsey, and Jr. on the terrace of the Officers' Club (Greenleaf Lodge), overlooking Greenleaf Lake, Camp Gruber, 1945.

Top Right: Jonsey, who was from New York, on the terrace of the Officers' Club (Greenleaf Lodge), overlooking Greenleaf Lake, Camp Gruber, 1945.

Bottom: Jonsey, Pauline Moore Shivers, Jerry Cochran Briggs, and Huntz, Officers' Club (Greenleaf Lodge), Camp Gruber, 1945.

"The guys took an armored personnel carrier, and we went riding around in it. Even the girls got to drive. We ended up at the Officers' Club and had a great time."

~ Pauline Moore Shivers





Above: One of the 14 chapels at Camp Gruber, 1945.

Left: Vera Ross, Melva Jo and her boyfriend outside of the Enlisted Club, Camp Gruber, 1945.

Below: Guard tower, German Prison of War Internment Camp, Camp Gruber, 1945.



Electronic copies of the following photographs were shared by Fran Barker. Ms. Barker is one of the founding members of the Braggs History Project. Several of these photographs were given to Ms. Barker by Colleen Eubanks Lay, Hazel Jackson, and the Braggs Service Club.

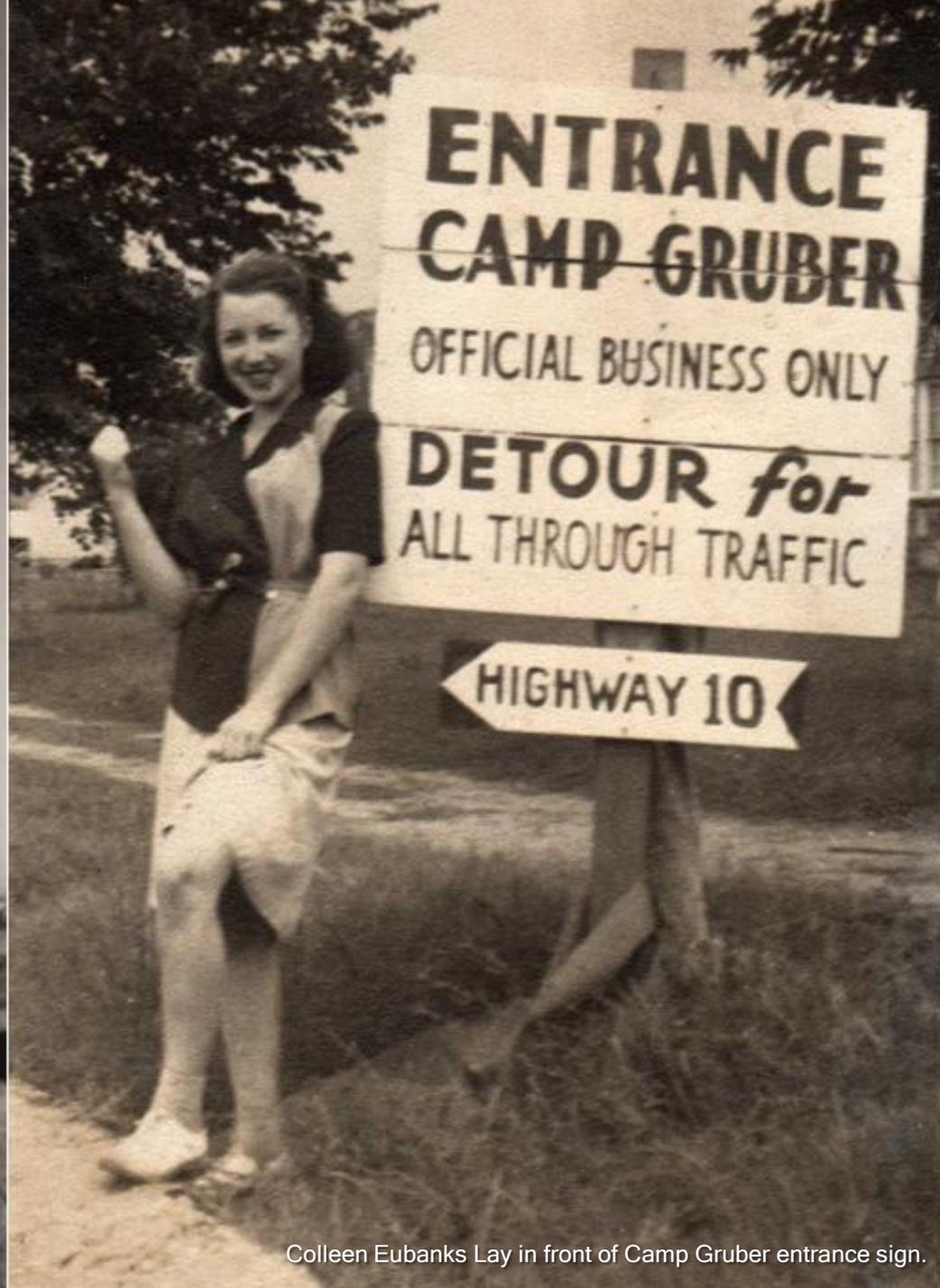
Colleen Eubanks Lay in front of Camp Gruber road sign.

U.S. GOVERNMENT
MILITARY RESERVATION
UNDER MILITARY CONTROL

**SLOW
DOWN
NOW**

**SPEED LIMIT
30^{MPH.} MAX-25^{MPH.} MIN.**

DO NOT LEAVE MAIN ROAD
BY ORDER OF CAMP COMMANDEE
CAMP GRUBER



Colleen Eubanks Lay in front of Camp Gruber entrance sign.

The USO Club in Braggs



Today, it is the First Baptist Church, located on Patrick Street just west of the Town Hall.



Soldiers from Camp Gruber outside the railroad depot, Braggs.





Above: Local Braggs residents outside Tent City, Camp Gruber.

Left: Colleen Lay Banks outside railroad depot, Braggs.

Below: Tent City, Camp Gruber





“These panoramic photos are familiar to many a WWII soldier and his family. According to the Library of Congress, they were made by a Cirkut camera which was patented in 1904. The camera and the tripod rotated in order to take the very long and narrow photos.”

~ Fran Barker

The following photographs were contributed by Stanley O. McCaffrey. Mr. McCaffrey was stationed at Camp Gruber with the 88th Infantry Division from 1942 to 1943.



88th Division Quartermaster Office.



Left: Jerry Spero and Stan McCaffrey. Jerry is delivering a letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Stan McCaffrey in which the President sends his best wishes to Stan, Camp Gruber, 1942.

“Jerry is World War II most decorated veteran.”
~ Stanley McCaffrey

The following photograph was donated by Jim Humphreys. Mr. Humphreys has donated several WWII-era items to Camp Gruber. The original photograph and the other donated items are on file in the Camp Gruber Cultural Resources Office.

Company C of the 1280th Engineer Combat Battalion



Formed 20 April 1944 at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, and deactivated 27 November 1945 at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky. The unit sailed from the United States on 9 December 1944, arrived in England on 20 December 1944, arrived in France on 20 April 1945, and returned to the United States on 10 September 1945. In August 1945, the 1280th was in Yvetot, France, and scheduled to be shipped to the Pacific. No doubt the ending of the war against Japan meant that it could return to the United States instead.

The following photographs were donated by Martin Hantschko. Mr. Hantschko was a German Prisoner of War, who was interned at Camp Gruber from September 1944 to May 1946. Original photographs and letters are on file in the Camp Gruber Cultural Resources Office.



Above and below: German Prisoners of War at Camp Gruber, 1945.

Right: Martin Hantschko, POW #31G-T5421, Age 19, Camp Gruber, 1945.



M. Hentschko
10 Lewis Street
Mount Waverley - Victoria 3149
Melbourne - AUSTRALIA

Mt. Waverley, 11th April 1994

Martin Hentschko
10 Lewis Street
Mount Waverley Victoria 3149
Melbourne - AUSTRALIA

Melbourne, 30th May 1994

The Lord Mayor
BRAGGS - City
Oklahoma - USA

Dear Mr. Mayor

Sir, I am writing to you in the belief that you may be able to help me.

From September 1944 to May 1946 I was a German Prisoner of War at "Camp Gruber" in Braggs - Oklahoma.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with information about the City of Braggs, the nearby Lake - if I remember correctly it is called "green Leaf" - and the Cotton fields adjacent to the Arkansas River.

To arrive at the Cotton fields, we crossed a Bridge.

I am now retired and an Australian Citizen.

I wish to trace certain periods of my Life.

Thanking you in anticipation.


M. Hentschko

The Mayor City of BRAGGS
Mr. James P. Pierce
109 Patrick - P.O. Box 149
BRAGGS - Oklahoma 74423

Dear Mr Mayor James P. Pierce
Dear Mike Pierce

Thank you very much for your letter of April 27th 1994.

Your immediate initiative and effort, to provide me with Photos and Newspaper clippings, is very much appreciated.

May I assure you that your informations are of importance and significant to me.

I was astonished to see still existing relics, made by P.o.W's 50 years ago. Many times I passed the front gate, also build by P.o.W's, prior to my arrival in September 1944, going to and from work in the Clothing-Store of the 42nd Infantry Division - the Rainbow Division.

Unrestricted we mingled with Army-Personnel and Civilians therefore we had the opportunity to practice our elementary "English".

To preserve the remaining relics at the former P.o.W. Camp is commendable and noble, and I wish to thank the persons responsible for that.

With pleasure I enclose Photos made at Camp Gruber 1945 before "D-Day".

You certainly will recognize the monument, which represents the decisive battle of Napoleons defeat by many Army's of different Nations in Europe, in the year of 1813. Our Barrack had a Windmill as monument.

Just to say, as P.o.W's we were treated well and in accordance with the International Convention.

I was contacted by an Editor of the Muskogee-Phoenix Newspaper, Ms. Joan Morrison. It is Ms. Morrisons intention to write an article about "D-Day, 8th June 1944.

Thank you again for everything, I am grateful.

Kind regards to you Mr. Mayor, James P. Pierce and your Wife the Mayoress.

Kind regards to you, Mike Pierce and kind regards to the other folks at Braggs City Hall.

God bless you ALL.



Electronic copies of the following photographs were contributed by Chuck Golden, Response International Group.

Check-up prior to training, Greenleaf Lake, Camp Gruber, 1945.



“Ready to Go!”

Stinson L-5 Sentinel - liaison aircraft, Greenleaf Lake, Camp Gruber, 1945.



Float Training, Greenleaf Lake, Camp Gruber, 1945.



Float Training, Greenleaf Lake, Camp Gruber, 1945.





Float Training, Greenleaf Lake, Camp Gruber, 1945.

Rescue craft used during training, Greenleaf Lake, Camp Gruber, 1945.



SSG Johnson, Camp Gruber, 1945.



Inside the chapel at Muskogee AFB, 1945.



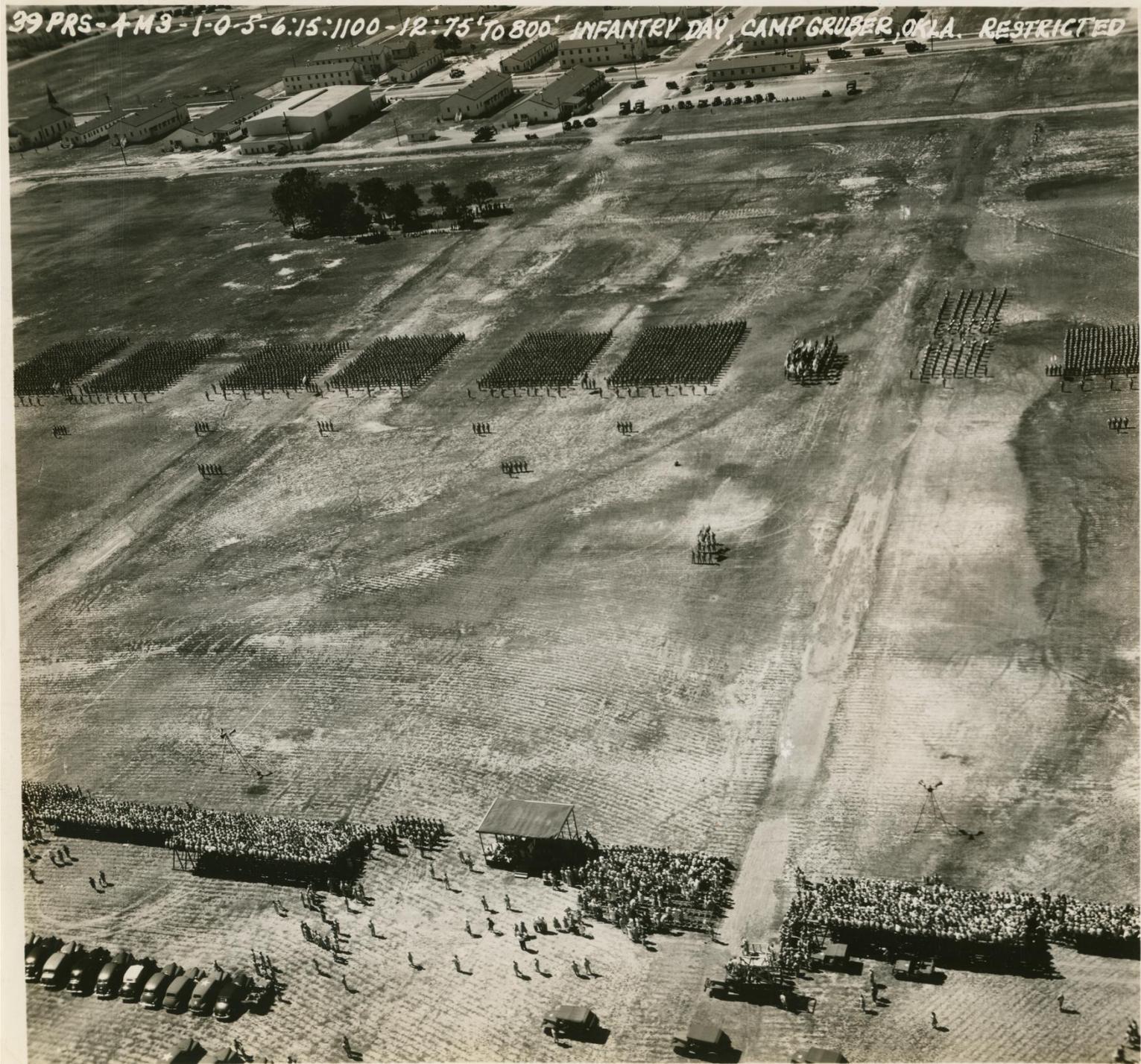
Ray Linder in cast. Quarters at Muskogee AFB, 1945.



P-51 Mustang - long-range, single-seat fighter / fighter-bomber used to escort bombers during raids. Muskogee AFB, 1945.



39 PRS-4 M3-1-0-5-6:15:1100-12:75 TO 800 INFANTRY DAY, CAMP GRUBER, OKLA. RESTRICTED



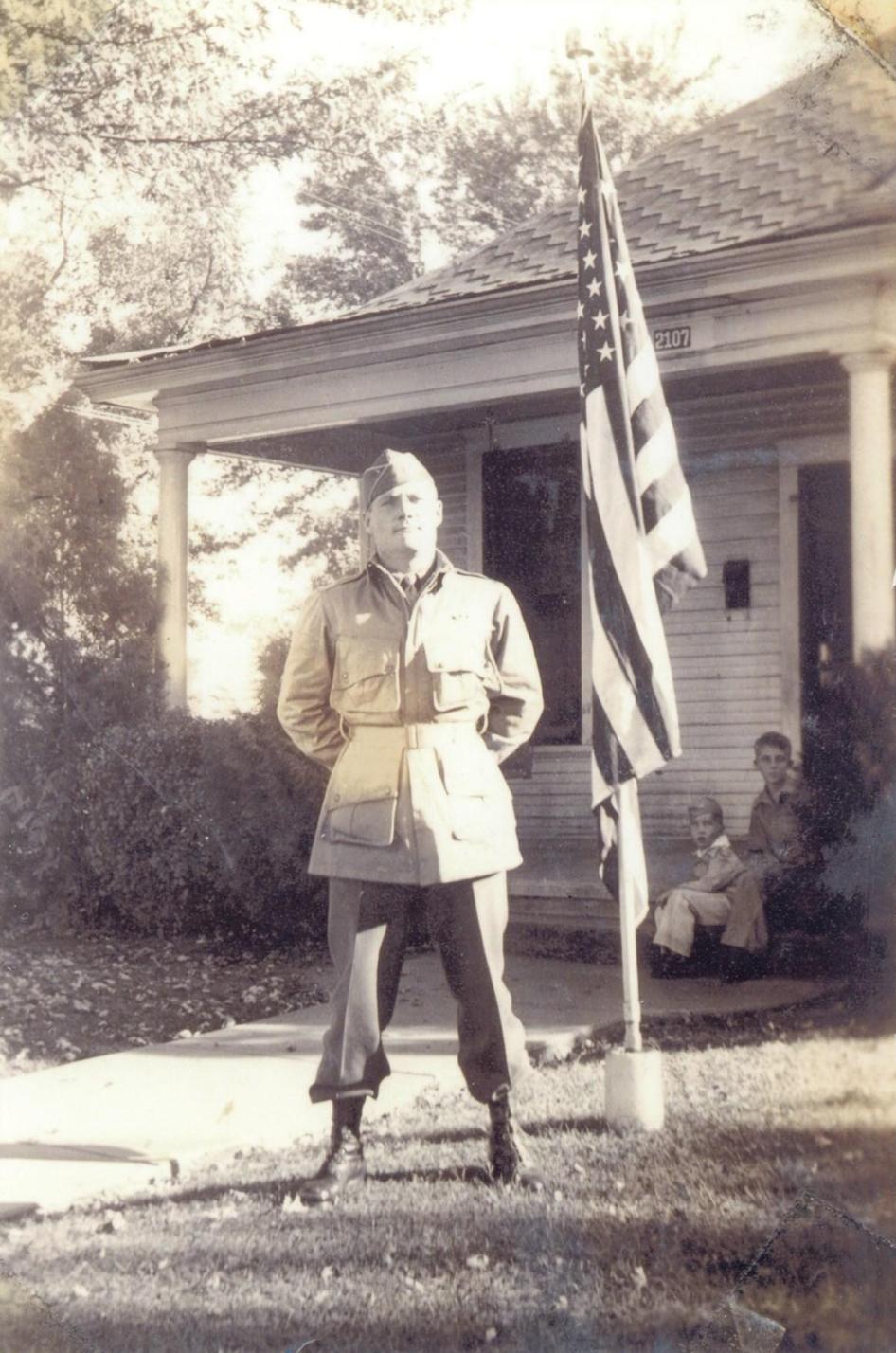
39 PRS -4M3-1-0-4-6:15:1100-12:75 to 800' INFANTRY DAY, CAMP GRUBER, OKLA. RESTRICTED



39 PRS-4M3-1-0-2-6:15:1100-12:75'to 800' INFANTRY DAY, CAMP GRUBER, OKLA.
RESTRICTED



The following photograph was donated by Judy McNeely. Original photograph is on file in the Camp Gruber Cultural Resources Office.



Left: PFC Major M. Gartrell, Battery A, 542nd Field Artillery Battalion, Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.

Electronic copies of the following photographs were donated by Joe Gyscek. Mr. Gyscek's mother, 2LT Jane W. Cavanaugh, was an Army Nurse stationed at the Camp Gruber Station Hospital from April to December 1945. Ms. Cavanaugh was originally from Poughkeepsie, NY.

A sketch of 2LT Cavanaugh drawn by a German Prisoner of War in December 1945. The artist name appears to be "Moneroz" from Linz, Austria.



2LT Cavanaugh outside the nurses' quarters. Camp Gruber, 1945.



Back of Ward A-17, Camp Gruber Station Hospital, 1945.



Outside the Nurses' Quarters, Camp Gruber, 1945.



2LT Cavanaugh and fellow nurses inside barracks, Camp Gruber, 1945.



Patients and nurses, Camp Gruber Station Hospital, 1945.



Interior of hospital ward, Camp Gruber Station Hospital, 1945.



Camp Gruber Station Hospital, 1945.



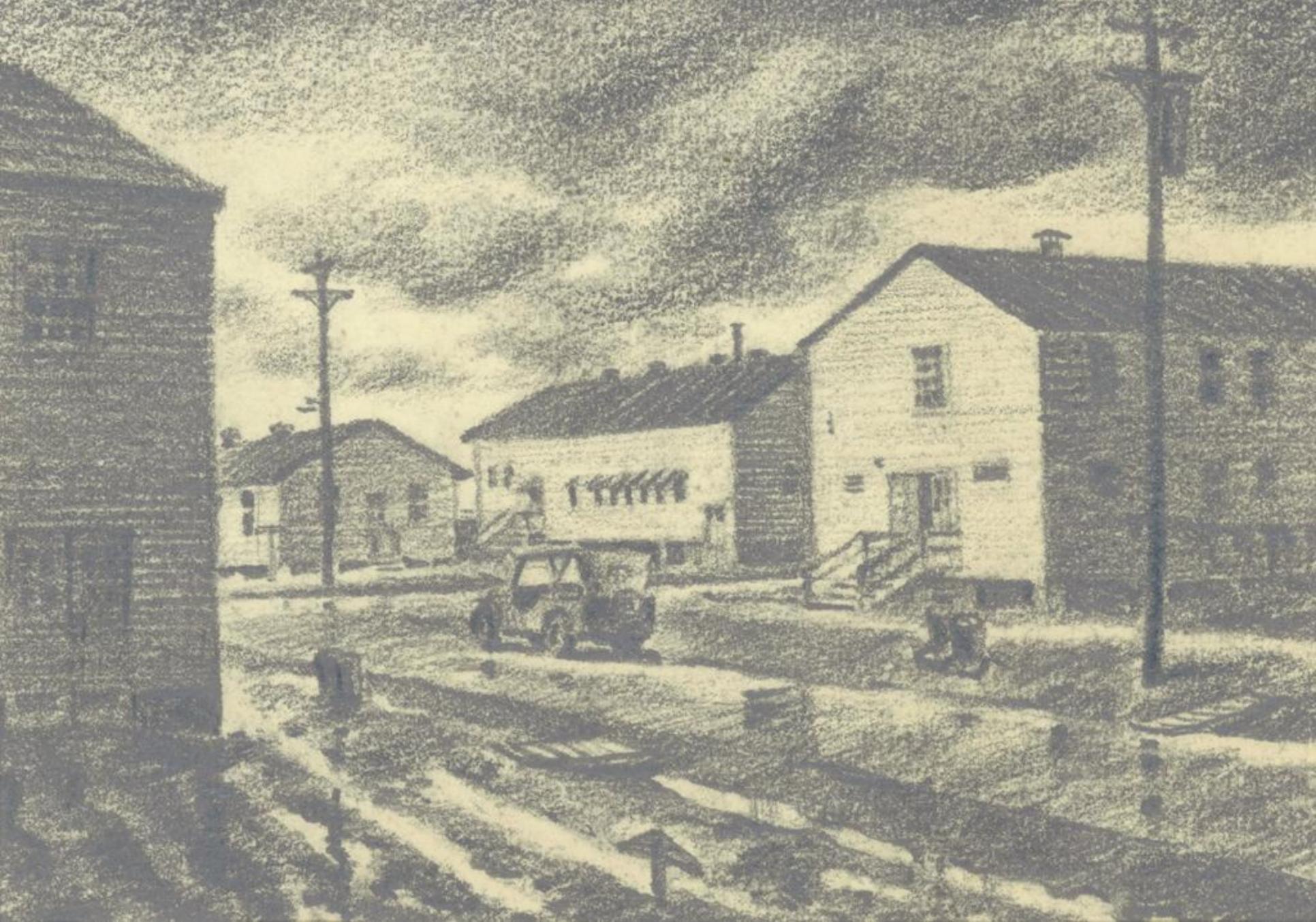
Nurse's Station, Camp Gruber Station Hospital, 1945.



Olympic-sized swimming pool near hospital, Camp Gruber, 1945.

The following artworks were donated by the Grant family. SSG Allen W. Grant of Brooklyn, NY, was stationed at Camp Gruber during World War II. After the war, SSG Grant worked in advertising in New York and was considered himself a “Sunday painter”. He created hundreds of watercolor and oil paintings, some of which are exhibited in the historical museum in Hastings on Hudson, the village where he lived. These artworks give insight to the soldier’s perspective of Camp Gruber.

Rainy Sunday, Camp Gruber



Clear Up Shower, Camp Gruber



The following photographs are archived at
the National Archives Still Photography
Unit, College Park, Maryland.

Aerial Imagery of Camp Gruber, 1943



↑ N MOSAIC OF CAMP GRUBER OKLAHOMA SCALE 1:10000

~~RESTRICTED~~



88th Infantry Division



‘Cloverleaf’ or ‘Blue Devil’ Division

The 88th Infantry Division was reactivated at Camp Gruber on 15 July 1942 under the command of Major General John E. Sloan. The 88th was one of the first all draftee divisions to enter World War II. On 26 August 1943, the 88th Division departed Camp Gruber for Fort Sam Houston, Texas, before embarking to North Africa. The 88th served 344 days in combat in the Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley Campaigns. They remained in Italy as part of the Trieste Occupation Forces. The 88th Infantry Division was inactivated on 24 October 1947.

The insignia for the 88th is a four-leaf clover, hence the name ‘Cloverleaf’ Division. It represents the four states - Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, and Minnesota - from which the personnel of the division came. During World War II, the 88th earned their nickname ‘Blue Devils’ from the fearful Germans against whom they were victorious.



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SIG. C., U.S. ARMY

174740

Headquarters building of the 88th Inf. Div. at Camp Gruber, Okla. Situated at the western boundary of a beautiful parade ground, the offices at the front of the building have an excellent view of the entire camp. 5/3/43 (111-SC-174740)



Maj. Gen. John E. Sloan at his desk. Camp Gruber, Okla. 3/31/43; Commander in Chief of the 88th Div. (111-SC-174730)



Above: Col. Charles P. Lynch in his office. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/14/43;
C. O. of the 350th Inf. Regt. (111-SC-174735)



Below: Col. R. J. McBride shown at his desk. Camp Gruber, Okla. 3/30/43; Chief of Staff of the 88th Div. (111-SC-174734)

174734



Col. E. Landrath, C. O., looks over his daily reports in his office, Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/9/43; 349th Inf. Regt. (111-SC-174731)



MG J. E. Sloan, BG Guy O. Kurtz, and BG W. E. Kendall.
Camp Gruber, 4/10/43; Gen. Sloan, C. O., 88th Div., Gen.
Kurtz, Div. Art. C. O. (111-SC-174729)



Brig. Gen. Guy O. Kurtz, C. O., and general staff begin the review. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/10/43; Artillery Division, 88th Div. (111-SC-174731)

The beginning of review, mass formation of men. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/10/43; 88th Division 1 (11-SC-174746)



Review and mass formation. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/10/43; 88th Division (111-SC-174747)

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Review and mass formation. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/10/43; 88th Division (111-SC-174748)

Review and mass formation. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/10/43; 88th Division (111-SC-174749)





Review and mass formation. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/10/43; 88th Division (111-SC-174750)



Col. E. Landrath, C. O., points out facts regarding problem in his office. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/8/43; 349th Inf. Regt. (111-SC-174732)

Col. Charles P. Lynch and Capt. Milcher during problem. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/14/43; At Regt. C. P. Co. of 351st Inf. Regt. during problem S-1 350th Inf. Regt. (111-SC-174736)



174736

BG Guy O. Kurtz, C. O., observes mental conditioning test.
Camp Gruber, 4/8/43; Artillery, 1st Bn., 349th Inf. Regt.
(111-SC-174728)





111-SC-174739. Firing 60mm mortar with explosions from simulated artillery fire in background during mental conditioning test. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/8/43; Co. C., 1st Bn, 349th Inf. Regt.



Pfc. Santos E. Molena, Karnez City, Texas of the 351st Inf. Regt. is firing rocket gun from slit trench. Training area of Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/1/43 (111-SC-175030)

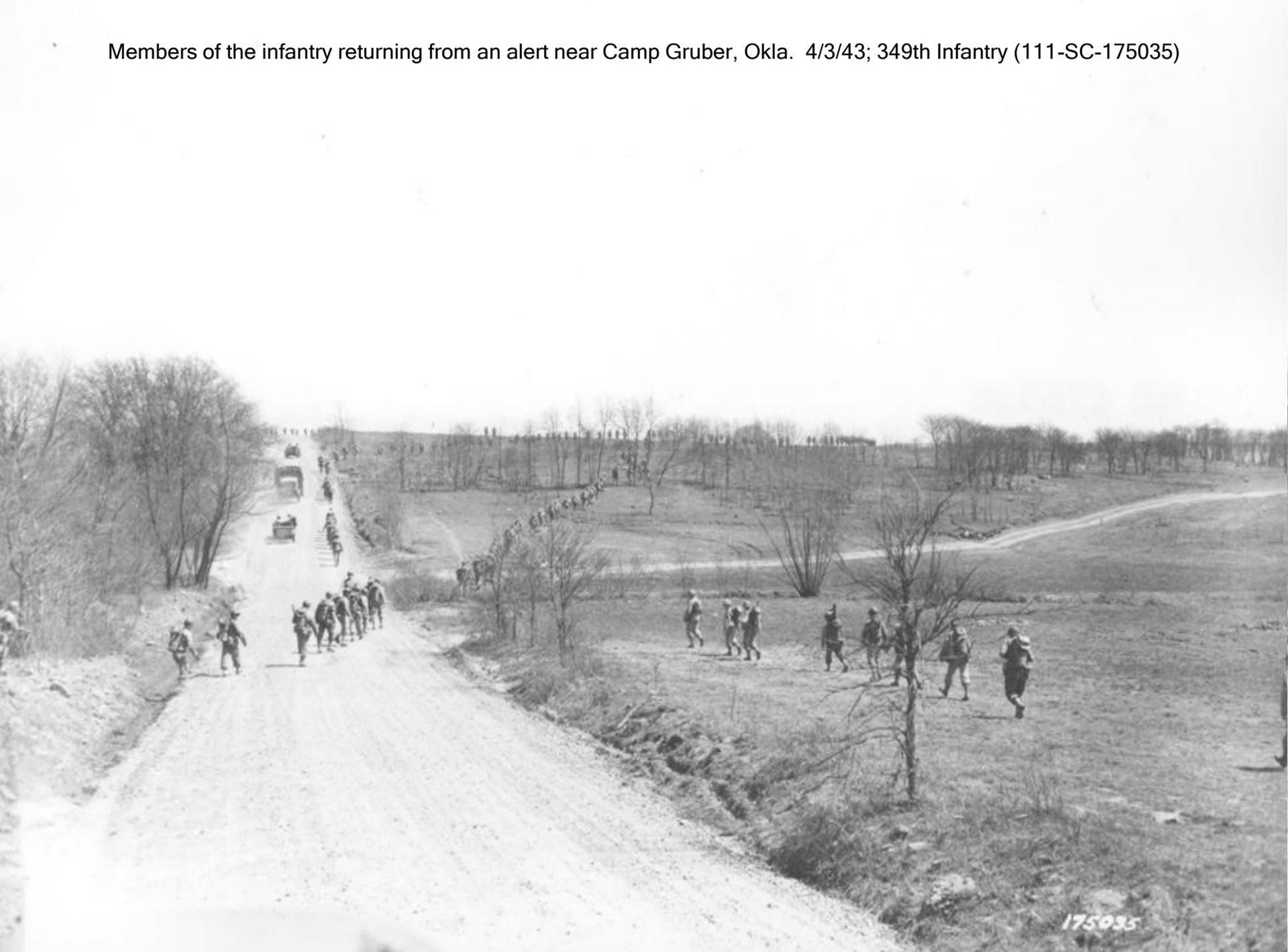
Pfc. George Daniels, Salem, Va., number one can (not sure if correct - caption illegible) of gun crew. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/28/43; 155 mm M1A1 Rifle, C. Bat. 137th F. A. Bn. (111-SC-174741)





In full recoil. Near Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/28/43; 155mm M1A1 Rifle of 137th F. A. Bn. (111-SC-174742)

Members of the infantry returning from an alert near Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/3/43; 349th Infantry (111-SC-175035)





Inflating Pontoon Boat. Green Leaf Lake, Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/5/43; 313th E. Co. (111-SC-174743)



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17474

Sgt. Ralph Lighten and Corp. Leo Murphy in pontoon boat. Green Leaf Lake, Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/5/43; 313th E. Co. O. (111-SC-174744)

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Crew floating a pontoon boat to be used in building infantry support bridge. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/5/43; 315th E. Co. C. (111-SC-174745)

Truck crossing infantry support bridge built by the engineers. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/5/43 (111-SC-174754)



Pvt. Harvey Woodsmale, Black Oak, Ark., Pvt. Vale Bogamaz, Detroit, Mich., Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/19/43; 88th Signal Co., Radio Squad (111-SC-179306)



111-SC-179306



Brig. Gen. Paul W. Hendl examines the Carbine Cherokee range. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/5/43; Assistant Chief of Staff 88th Division (111-SC-174737)

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Corp. George W. Brown, Los Angeles, Calif., coaches Corp. Bradley L. Thompson, Silver Creek, NY, while he fires the 30 cal. Springfield Rifle in the new squatting position near Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/17/43; 350th Inf. Col L. (111-SC-174738)

Cpl Robert Heeley, Co. C. 807th T. D. Bn. and Cpl. Micheal Rdokovich, Recn. 807th T. D. Bn. demonstrate commando tactics during their training at Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/19/43 (111-SC-186771)





Sgt. D. J. Gaffey and Sgt. Beckman of the 807th T. D. Bn
demonstrate Commando Tactics at Camp Gruber, Okla.
4/19/43 (111-SC-186772)



Sulfanilamide is poured on a wound of a mock casualty. T/5 Carmine Verrons. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/7/43; 313th Med. Bn. (111-SC-174751)



111-SC-174752. Pfc. Ray Johns, Dallas, Texas, dog trainer, is agitating a sentry dog during the day's training period. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/30/43; M. P. Det. C.A.S.C.

"Dutch", an Army sentry dog, takes a five foot hurdle during the days training period.
Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/30/43; M. P. Det., C.A.S.C. (111-SC-174753)



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ING. C., U.S. ARMY



CRSE NO.
28-200

U.S. ARMY
REGIMENT U.S.A.

174759

Pvt. Joe Bomblasky lighting gas stove. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/5/43 (111-SC-174759)



Corp. James C. Deal, Denton, Texas, S/Sgt. William Amlalih, New York City, Sgt. Walter Zeabro, New Jersey, New York.---Cooks. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/21/43; 351st Inf., Co. G, 88th Division (111-SC-174760)



114761

Jewish boys eat Matzos during Passover while on a field problem. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/20/43; 88th Sig. Co., 88th Division (111-SC-174761)



Sgt. Clayton R. Walker demonstrates protective clothing during a class conducted by Chemical Warfare office of Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/7/43 (111-SC-186770)



Above: Maj. Gen. J. E. Sloan riding in a jeep near Camp Gruber, Okla.
4/22/43 (111-SC-174757)

Below: Col. J. A. Kilty in his jeep. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/9/43; Comm. Off.
of 2nd Bn., 349th Inf. Regt. 88th Div. (111-SC-174756)



174757

U.S. ARMY



SIG. C. U.S. ARMY

Mounting tire on side of jeep. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/26/43; 788th Ord. (111-SC-174755)

74755

4 1/2 ton wrecker. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/24/43; 788th Ord. 88th Division (111-SC-174758)



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SIG. C. U.S. ARMY

174758

Rocket gun mounted on a jeep. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/3/43; 788th Ordnance (111-SC-175031)



The rocket launcher bracket on a 3/4 ton weapon carrier. 788th Ordnance, Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/3/43 (111-SC-175032)

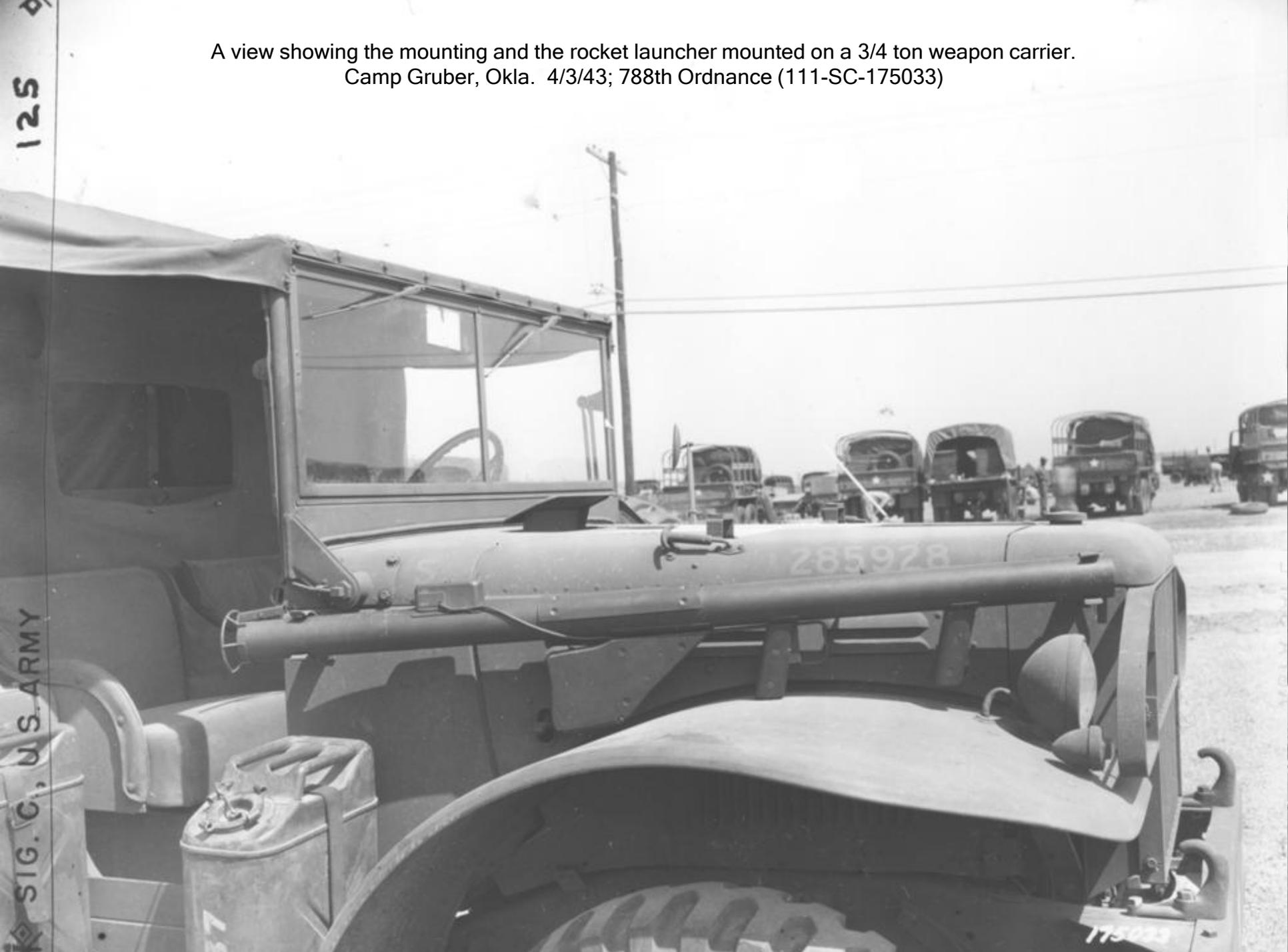
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SIG. C., U.S. ARMY



175032

A view showing the mounting and the rocket launcher mounted on a 3/4 ton weapon carrier.
Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/3/43; 788th Ordnance (111-SC-175033)



SIG. C. U.S. ARMY

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Rocket gun mounted on a 1/2 ton vehicle. Camp Gruber, Okla. 4/3/43; 788th Ordnance (111-SC-175034)



Ethel Woodward, mechanic helper at Camp Gruber Motor Repair Shop, investigates the carburetor in an attempt to get it back into action. 4/7/43 (111-SC-186769)



155 mm gun, named Cadet, with prime mover and full crew of the 16th F. A. Brig. is shown ready to go into action on leaving for maneuvers. 5/3/43 (111-SC-186773)



Rear view of 155mm prime mover shows gun supply and personnel equipment stowed in preparation of moving out.
Camp Gruber, Okla. 5/3/43 (111-SC-186774)

View taken from 155mm gun of its prime mover and crew at Camp Gruber, Okla., as the 16th F. A. Brig moved out on maneuvers. 5/3/43 (111-SC-186775)





Two extremes in size of military motor vehicles is shown by the 155mm gun prime mover and the personnel carrying "Jeep" of the 985th F. A. Bn. at Camp Gruber, Okla. 5/4/43 (111-SC-186776)

INFORMAL
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
WHILE HAVING SUPPER WITH A GROUP OF SOLDIERS
AT
CAMP GRUBER, OKLAHOMA.
SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 1943

THE PRESIDENT:

I just want to take the opportunity, while I am here -- I believe you represent many units of this camp -- to tell you I was very happy at the efficient and fine appearance, both of the Division in review and the men along the route.

I want to pay special tribute to your cooks. I don't get as good a meal as that in the White House. I get only butter for breakfast -- one little pat at that.

You are very lucky to be in the Army. I am glad to be here with you. You have a fine camp. I understand you have completed your preliminary training and soon will go into more advanced work; then you will be ready for active service, in all probability overseas. Just where, I don't know. I couldn't tell you if I knew.

I congratulate all the units of Camp Gruber.

On Sunday, 18 April 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Camp Gruber while conducting a tour of military cantonments in the region. In honor of the President's visit, the 88th Infantry Division, under the command of MG Sloan, conducted a division review. This was the first time that President Roosevelt had ever seen a full infantry division in review. The following series of photographs documents his visit to Camp Gruber.







111-SC-171410



111-SC-171411

71411



111-SC-171412

171412



HQ-29

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171420



111-SC-171421

171421



171422



171423



171424



42nd Infantry Division

'Rainbow' Division



The 42nd Infantry Division was reactivated at Camp Gruber on 14 July 1943 under the command of Major General Harry J. Collins. The 42nd served 106 days in combat in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns, beginning with their arrival in France in December 1944. They also served in the Army of Occupation in Austria until the spring of 1946. The 42nd Infantry Division was deactivated on 14 July 1946.

Multiple explanations have been given as to how the 42nd earned the nickname, 'Rainbow Division,' although General Douglas MacArthur is often credited. Once the United States declared war on Germany in 1917, the Secretary of War Newton D. Baker authorized the organization of a division using the best regiments from 26 states. General MacArthur, then a major, who was standing nearby, stated, "Fine, that will stretch over the whole country like a rainbow." Therefore, the 42nd adopted the insignia, which symbolizes half a rainbow.



Major General Harry J. Collins, Commanding Officer of the 42nd "Rainbow" Division. Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. 1944 (111-SC-190215)

Brig. Gen. Stark, assistant 42nd Division Commander, at
Camp Gruber, Okla. 10/9/43 (111-SC-188571)



Brig. Gen. Thomas F. Mickey, new Commanding General
of X Corps Field Arty. Group at Camp Gruber, Okla. 1943
(111-SC-186820)



186820



Brig. Gen. Harry J. Collins, Commanding General of the 42nd "Rainbow" Inf. Div., and his Chief of Staff, Col. Lester A. Sprinkle, discuss matters prior to the activation. Above the General's head to the right may be seen his personal motto "Let no boy's soul say 'had I the proper training"...inspired by his determination to produce "real soldiers" for the difficult task ahead. Camp Gruber, Okla. 6/9/43 (111-SC-186777)



Brig. Gen. Collins, Commanding General of the 42nd Inf. Div. of World War II, welcomes Sgt. William Williams, veteran of this Division of World War I. Camp Gruber, Okla. 7/743 (111-SC-186778)



Brig. Gen. Harry J. Collins, commanding Gen. of the 42nd Inf. Div. and Al Hoyt, Pres. of the Rainbow Veteran Assoc. exchange greetings. 7/14/43 (111-SC-186779)

Brig. Gen. Harry J. Collins, Commanding General of the 42nd Inf. Div. receives from Al Hoyt, head of the Rainbow Veterans Association of World War I, the battle flag of the old Rainbow Div. at the reactivation ceremonies at Camp Gruber, Okla. 7/14/43 (111-SC-186780)



186780



During the activation ceremonies of the 42nd Rainbow Inf. Div. on 14 July 1943, 48 states and the District of Columbia were represented with a flag carried by an enlisted man from that state. 7/14/43 (111-SC-186781)



This photo shows how the protective covers are used against chemical aerial attacks. 10/16/43 (111-SC-188569)



General Collins, Commander of the 42nd Division, is pinning the Order of the Purple Heart on Pfc. George Eridio, who won the decoration for being wounded on Guadalcanal. Camp Gruber, Okla. 10/26/43 (111-SC-188570)

Standing under the two-star flag of a major general is Maj. Gen. Frederick W. Coleman (USA RET), who is here visiting his son, Lt. Col. F. W. Coleman, III, commander of special troops, and Maj. Gen. Harry J. Collins, Division Commander. Camp Gruber, Okla. 10/26/43 (111-SC-188572)





86th Infantry Division

'Black Hawk' Division



The 86th Infantry Division briefly trained at Camp Gruber from 21 June to 11 August 1945 while under the command of Major General Harris M. McLasky.

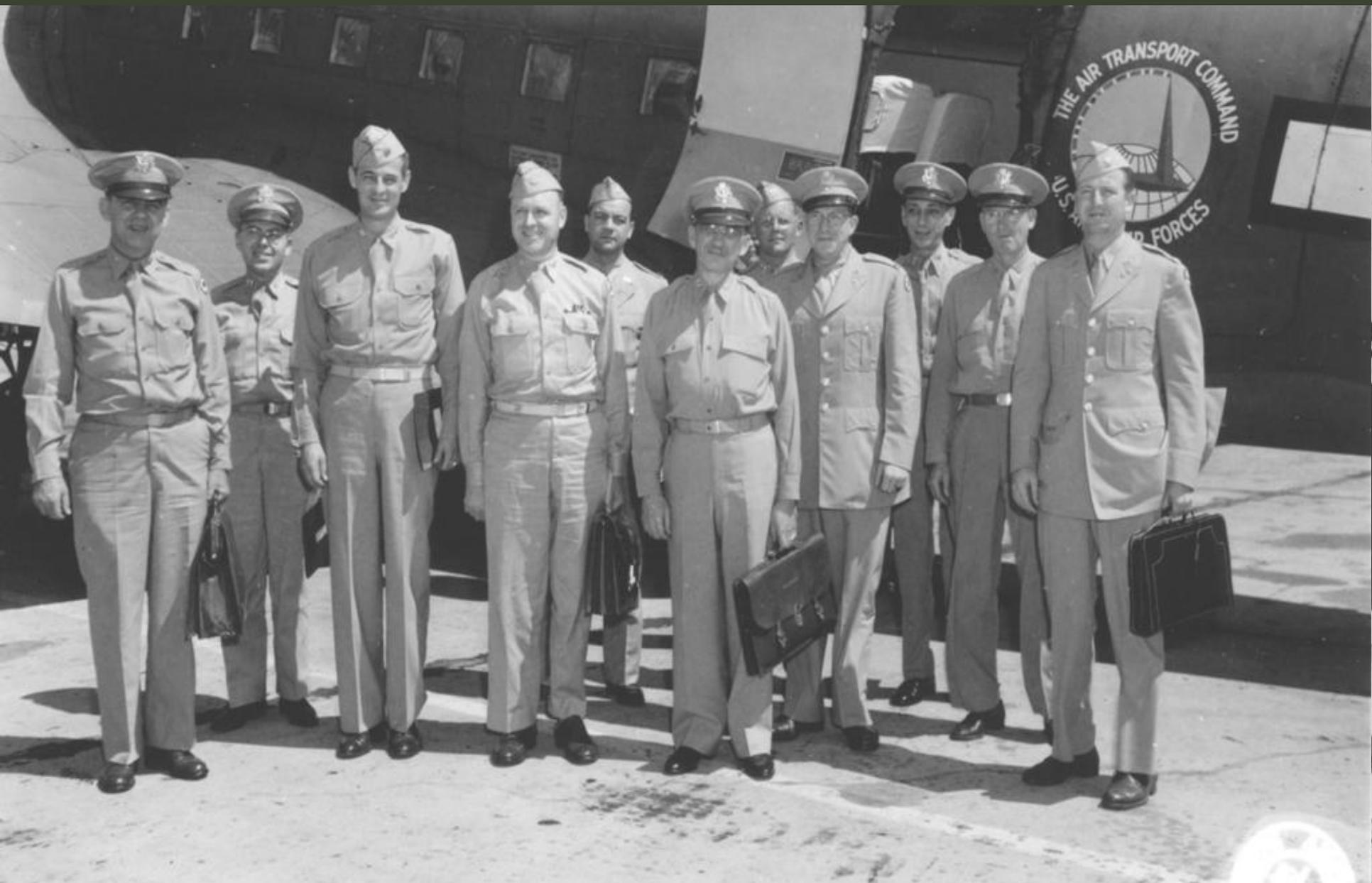
The 86th was reactivated on 15 December 1942 at Camp Howze, Texas, under the command of Major General Alexander E. Anderson. In February 1945, they deployed to the European Theater of Operations, where they served in the Central Europe Campaign. The 86th returned to the United States in June 1945 to train for redeployment to the Pacific Theater of Operations. The 86th departed for the Philippines on 24 August 1945 and were aboard a ship in the Leyte harbor when the Japanese surrendered. The 86th remained in the Philippines until 30 December 1946 when the division was deactivated. The 86th served a total of 34 days of combat.

The insignia for the 86th is a black hawk, wings outspread, superimposed on a red shield. Upon the breast of the hawk is a red shield with the letters 'B' and 'H.' This insignia was developed during World War I to honor the Native American warrior, Black Hawk.



Maj. Gen. S. L. Scott, deputy director of plans and operations, Army Service Forces, HQ., Washington, D. C., arrives by plane at Muskogee Army Airfield to attend a two-day redeployment conference at Camp Gruber. In the background are Col. Oliver J. Troster and Col. William W. Carlton, Army Service Forces, Washington, D. C. 7/9/45 (111-SC-219809)

Representatives of Army Service Forces Headquarters in Washington, D. C., who attended the two-day redeployment conference at Camp Gruber which concluded 10 July 1945 are pictured here after arrival at the Muskogee Army Air Field Monday. Left to right: Col. William W. Carlton, command installation branch, Mobilization Division; Capt. Robert T. Kelly, Office of Director of Supply Distribution Division; Lieut. Col. Jesse S. Lindsay, Planning Division; Col. Oliver J. Troster, Chief, Movements Branch, Mobilization Division; Maj. William R. Hesse, Special Services Div.; Maj. Gen. S. L. Scott, Deputy Director of Plans and Operations; Capt. Ronald C. Tenchert, Office of Chief of Ordnance; Col. John A. Beeman, Planning Division; Lieut. George S. Berlinger, Office of Quartermaster General; Lt. Col. I. C. Olsen, Office of Chief of Transportation; and Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Wood, Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for service command; all from Army Service Forces Headquarters in Washington, D. C. 7/9/45 (111-SC-219810)





Maj. Gen. Harris M. McLasky, C. G., 86th Div, foreground, inspects this truck and others filled with troops taken from trains at Braggs, Okla., to be transported to their barracks at Camp Gruber. On the left is Maj. S. J. Craig, executive officer. 7/28/45 (111-SC-219808)

FROM EUROPE TO THE PACIFIC

The following is a series of photographs documenting the redeployment training that the 86th 'Black Hawk' Division underwent at Camp Gruber. The 86th Division was the first division to return intact from the European Theater for the express purpose of being sent to the Pacific Theater.

A buddy member of the 86th "Black Hawk" Division snaps a picture at Camp Gruber, Okla., where the 86th Division trained in Pacific type warfare, after returning from action in the European Theater. 1945 (111-SC-210844)





A buddy member of the 86th "Black Hawk" Division snaps a picture at Camp Gruber, Okla., where the 86th Division trained in Pacific type warfare, after returning from action in the European Theater. 1945 (111-SC-210844)



Rigid training is given to the 86th Black Hawk Division in camouflage and marksmanship at Camp Gruber, Okla. 1945 (111-SC-210845)



At the completion of the retraining, rifles are cleaned and oiled by members of the 86th Division before being shipped to the Pacific Theater from Camp Gruber, Okla. 1945 (111-SC-210846)



Final "shake-down" inspection is given to the 86th Division before departing to the Pacific Theater to check all equipment and clothing at Camp Gruber, Okla. 1945 (111-SC-210847)

210847



Troops of the 86th Division board a train at Camp Gruber, Okla., for the trip to a port of embarkation - headed for the Pacific Theater after completing rigid training in the art of Pacific warfare. 1945 (111-SC-210848)



Wife of a departing soldier of the 86th Division lifts son for a farewell embrace to his father as the division departs from Camp Gruber, Okla., for a port of embarkation - headed for the Pacific Theater. 1945 (111-SC-210849)

SOLDIER PACIFIC BOUND

The following is a series of six photographs documenting the last day that PVT Gerald Cox and his wife, Edna, spend together before his redeployment to the Pacific Theater. PVT Cox is a member of the 86th “Black Hawk” Division, which underwent redeployment training at Camp Gruber. The 86th Division was the first division to return intact from the European Theater for the express purpose of being sent to the Pacific Theater.



Pvt. Gerald Cox, Knightstown, Ind., and his wife, Edna, do some window-shopping at Muskogee, Okla. 1945 (111-SC-210854)



Pvt. Gerald Cox, 86th Division, plans for a well furnished home with his wife Edna after he returns from the Pacific Theater. 1945
(111-SC-210855)



Pvt. Gerald Cox literally licks his chops as his wife Edna prepares a large steak for his final supper with her before pushing off for the Pacific Theater with the 86th Inf. Division. The Cox's have a rented flat near Camp Gruber, Okla., and Pvt. Cox gets two nights a week home with his wife. This is his last pass home. 1945 (111-SC-210856)



Last minute preparations and mending is done by Mrs. Cox as Pvt. Gerald Cox watches. This is his last night home with his wife before he leaves for a port of embarkation with the 86th Division, headed for the Pacific Theater. 1945 (111-SC-210857)



It's 4:30 A. M. and Pvt. Gerald Cox, 86th Division sniper, is awakened by his wife so that he can catch the train at Camp Gruber, Okla., that will take his division to a port of embarkation and then - the Pacific Theater. 1945 (111-SC-210858)



A last farewell in the early morning and another soldier leaves his home for more duty overseas - this time the Pacific Theater with the 86th Inf. Division. 1945 (111-SC-210859)

German Prisoner of War (POW) Internment Camp

The German Prisoner of War (POW) Internment Camp was in operation from May 1943 to June 1946. It was one of several internment camps throughout Oklahoma and was the last in the state to close after the end of World War II.

The POW camp encompassed approximately 130 acres on the west side of SH-10 across from Sicily Gate. It housed approximately 4,500 prisoners. Based on the prisoner lists in the Fran Barker Collection housed at the Oklahoma Historical Society, many of the prisoners interned at Camp Gruber has associations with the *Schutzstaffeln* (SS, or Praetorian Guard), the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD, an espionage and counter-intelligence department of the SS), the *Sturmabteilung* (SA, or Storm Troopers), and the *Hittler-Jugend* (Hitler Youth, the juvenile counterpart to the SA), and Rommel's *Afrikakorps*.

Camp Gruber was one of the first internment camps in the United States to utilize the POWs for off-camp labor. Prisoners worked in the cantonment maintaining sidewalks, roads, drainage ditches, the grounds, swimming pool and vehicles. Some worked in the offices and stores within the cantonment. Others worked off-post on local farms or the local stone quarry and sand pit.

The POWs also made improvements to their compounds. They constructed monuments, fountains, gardens, bridges, sidewalks, and other improvements. They were permitted to attend movies; participate in sports; take correspondence courses; subscribe to American magazines and newspapers; produce concerts, theatrical productions, and variety shows. The POWs even had their own newsletter, *Camp Gruber Zeitung*, which was written and published by the POWs. It offered the prisoners a forum for open discussion of issues - the war, philosophy, history, camp events, politics, education, and even current movies.



Another result of the work of the prisoners of war at Camp Gruber in their beautification program in their company areas. 1943 (111-SC-237152)

Replica of the Monument to the Battle of the Nations in Leipzig, Germany. The monument honors the allied forces of Russia, Prussia, Austria and Sweden and their defeat against the French army of Napoleon Bonaparte during the Battle of the Nations, or the Battle of Leipzig, on 16-19 October 1813.



With a maximum of spare time on their hands, prisoners of war find time to beautify their company areas at Camp Gruber, Okla. In this photo is shown their monument to Africa. 1943 (111-SC-237153)

Monument to the *Afrikakorps*, the German Africa Corps, which was an expeditionary force in Libya and Tunisia during the North African Campaign of WWII and were active from February 1941 to May 1943.



T-6103

DEUTSCHLAND HEILIGES VATERLAND

Prisoners of war have among their numbers many who in civilian life were engineers and artists. Interned at Camp Gruber and with a minimum of entertainment, their artistry receives much time as shown by some of their results in this photo. 1943 (111-SC-237154)

The inscription on the monument, "Deutschland Heiliges Vaterland," roughly translates to "Germany, Holy Native Country." Surrounding the monument are coats of arms representing major cities of the German nation during WWII. From left to right, Cologne (Köln), Hamburg, Berlin, Vienna (Wien), and Munich (München).



Prisoners of war have among their numbers many, who in civilian life were engineers and artists. Interned in this camp and with a minimum of entertainment, their artistry receives much time. In these photos are shown some of their beautification work in their areas. 1943 (111-SC-237155)

Monument honoring the *Schutzstaffel* (SS). Their motto, "Meine Ehre heißt Treue," which translates to "My Honor is Loyalty", is inscribed on the monument.

Prisoners of war work on an improvement project at Camp Gruber, Okla. 8/18/43 (111-SC-237653)



Miscellaneous Photographs from National Archives

Maj. Gen. John E. Sloan, while on a visit to the artillery ranges to watch the firing of large guns, addresses officers of the 31st Field Artillery group, Camp Gruber, 9 Feb. 45, upon his return from Italy. General Sloan was Commanding General of the 88th Div., which was trained at Camp Gruber, Okla. 2/9/45 (111-SC-226443)



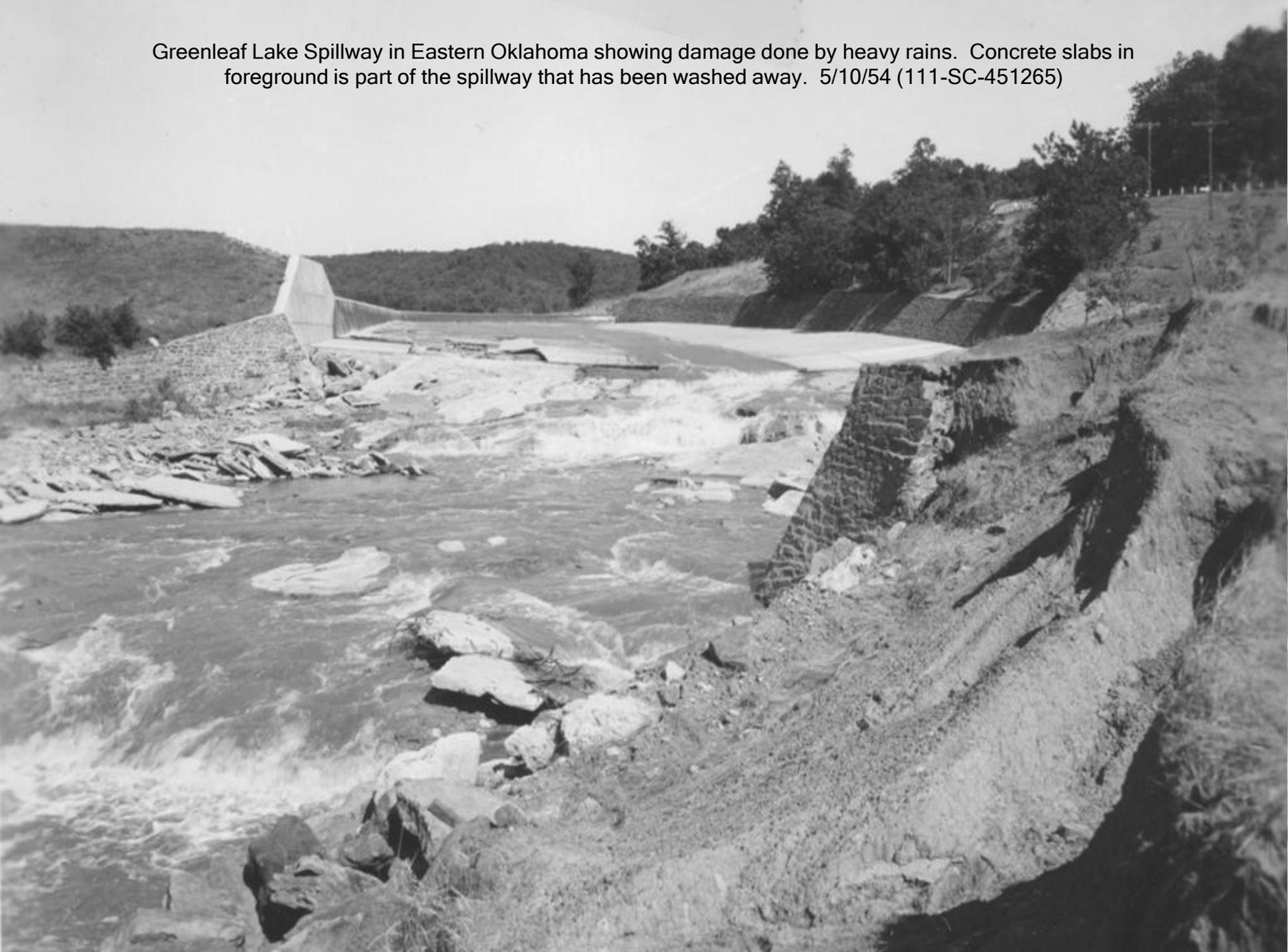


Maj. Gen. Charles H. Corlett, CG, XXXVI Corps, and Maj. Gen. John E. Sloan, CG, 88th "Blue Devils" Inf. Div (l. to r.) visit the Camp Gruber artillery range where the 431st Field Artillery group fire their largest guns. General Sloan's Division trained at Camp Gruber from July 15, 1942, to Feb. 9, 1945. In the background is Tams Bixby, newspaper publisher of Muskogee, Okla. 2/9/45 (111-SC-226581)

This water color painting of Winston Churchill took first prize in the 250th F. A. Gp. Art competition. It was done by Cpl. Edward M. Stallman, 435th F. A. Bn. Battery C. Cpl. Stallman is a native of Long Beach, Long Island, New York. He was a student at the famous Cooper Union in New York City. Among his teachers was Paul Rand, noted Commercial Artist. Camp Gruber, Okla. 10/20/1944 (111-SC-360574)



Greenleaf Lake Spillway in Eastern Oklahoma showing damage done by heavy rains. Concrete slabs in foreground is part of the spillway that has been washed away. 5/10/54 (111-SC-451265)



The following photographs are housed in the Camp Gruber Environmental Office. Some are Army Signal Corps photographs, while others appear to be from a private collection of unknown source. Although the National Archives houses most of the photographs taken by the Army Signal Corps, these were not located in the archives.

Caption on back reads "Division alert as part of advance training, 349th Infantry, 88th Division, Camp Gruber, April 1943."



Caption on back reads "Division alert as part of advance training, 349th Infantry, 88th Division, Camp Gruber, April 1943."



Caption on back reads "Division alert as part of advance training, 349th Infantry, 88th Division, Camp Gruber, April 1943."



Caption on back reads "HMG in AA position on carrier turning onto Tobacco Road, Division Alert, 349th Infantry, Camp Gruber, April 1943."



Handwritten caption on back of photo reads, "Myself, Lightner and ? (can't recall his name). Old obsolete flame thrower at left. Newer one with Lightner - igniter on. CWS 4.2 mortar. Later became Infantry weapon. We issued them along with HE, etc, Ammo."



Handwritten caption on back of photo reads, "Demonstration in Muskogee - 1 smoke pot probably covered a couple of blocks. I'm at right - Lightner (become Sgt?) to my left. O. Dobkin"





CHEMICAL WARFARE DISPLAY

5 TYPES OF GAS

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| | Choking Gas |
| | Blister Gas |
| | Nerve and Blood Poisons |
| | Panic Gas |
| | Tear Gas |

WAR GAS CLASSIFICATION

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| CHOKING GASES | IRITATE THE MUCOUS MEMBRANES OF THE NOSE, THROAT AND LUNGS |
| BLISTER GASES | CAUSE BURNS AND BUBLES ON THE SKIN |
| NERVE GASES | INTERFERE WITH THE ACTION OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM |
| TEAR GASES | CAUSE EYE IRRITATION AND TEARING |
| SMELLS LIKE GERANIUM | |

Adamsite

SMOOTH YELLOW POWDER

PROCESSED BY THE U.S. ARMY

MUSTARD

DARK OILY LIQUID - BROWNISH

SMELLS LIKE MUSTARD

LEWISITE

DARK GREEN OILY LIQUID

SMELLS LIKE GERANIUM

LONG & EYE IRRITANT - BLEAST IN A SHALLOW TRENCH AND WATER - OILY LIQUID - PROTECTIVE CAPTION

Handwritten caption on back of photo reads, "Exhibit".

There is no information regarding this photograph. Based on similarities to other photographs archived at the National Archives, this photograph may represent the reactivation ceremonies of the 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division held at Camp Gruber, July 1943.



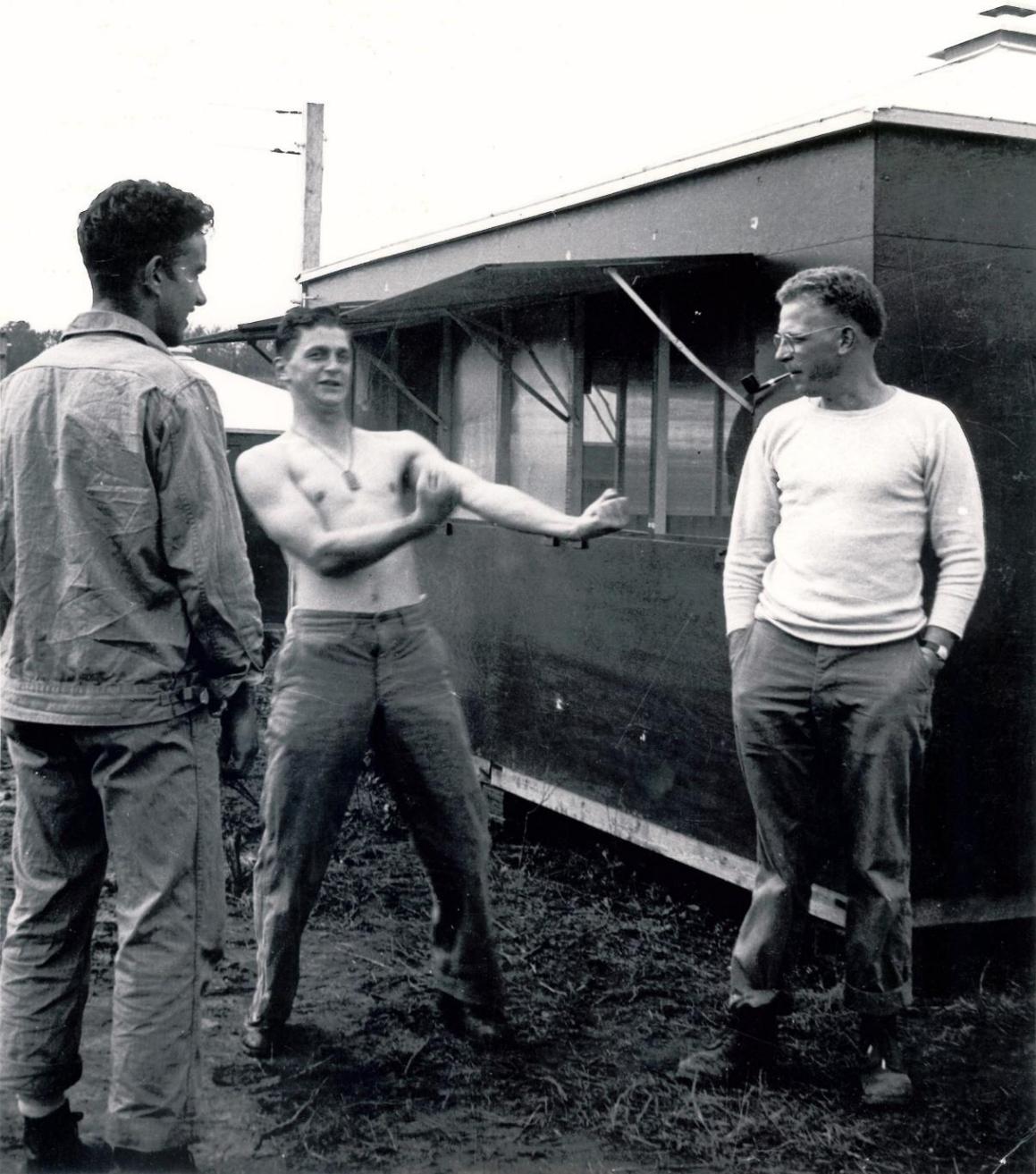
700 Series Temporary Mobilization-style buildings found across Army cantonments in World War II, Camp Gruber.





Inside the barracks.

GIs at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.





Motor Pool



Motor Pool

Motor Pool



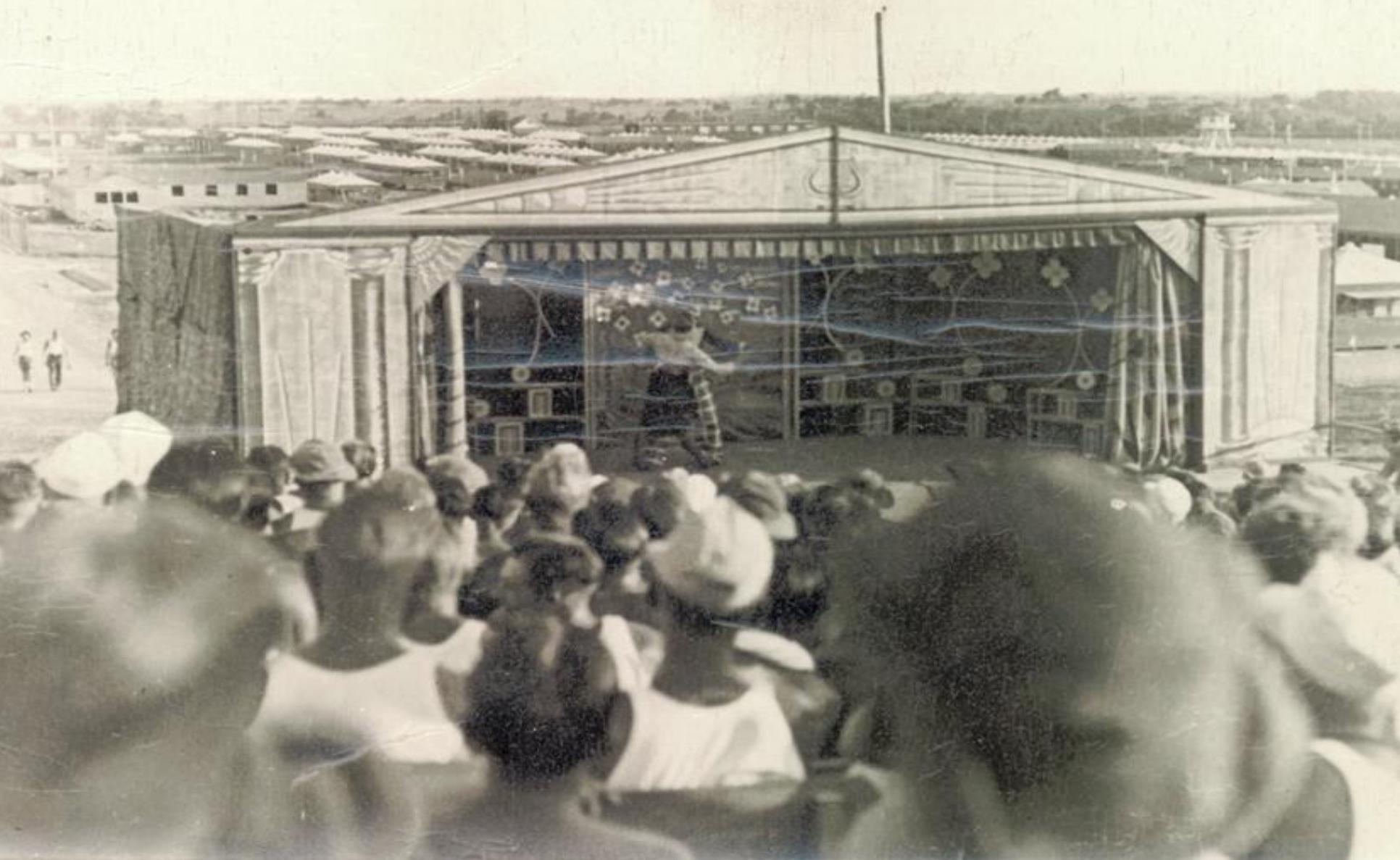


Handwritten caption on back reads "Mortar Range, White Phosphorus Grenade."



Lion statue constructed by German POWs.

Variety show hosted at German POW Internment Camp, Camp Gruber, 1943.





View of the German Prisoner of War Camp, Camp Gruber, circa 1944.



View of the German Prisoner of War Camp, Camp
Gruber, circa 1944.



View of the German Prisoner of War Camp, Camp Gruber, circa 1944.



View of the German Prisoner of War Camp, Camp
Gruber, circa 1944.



Above: Camp Gruber Main Gate.



333rd Field Artillery Regiment

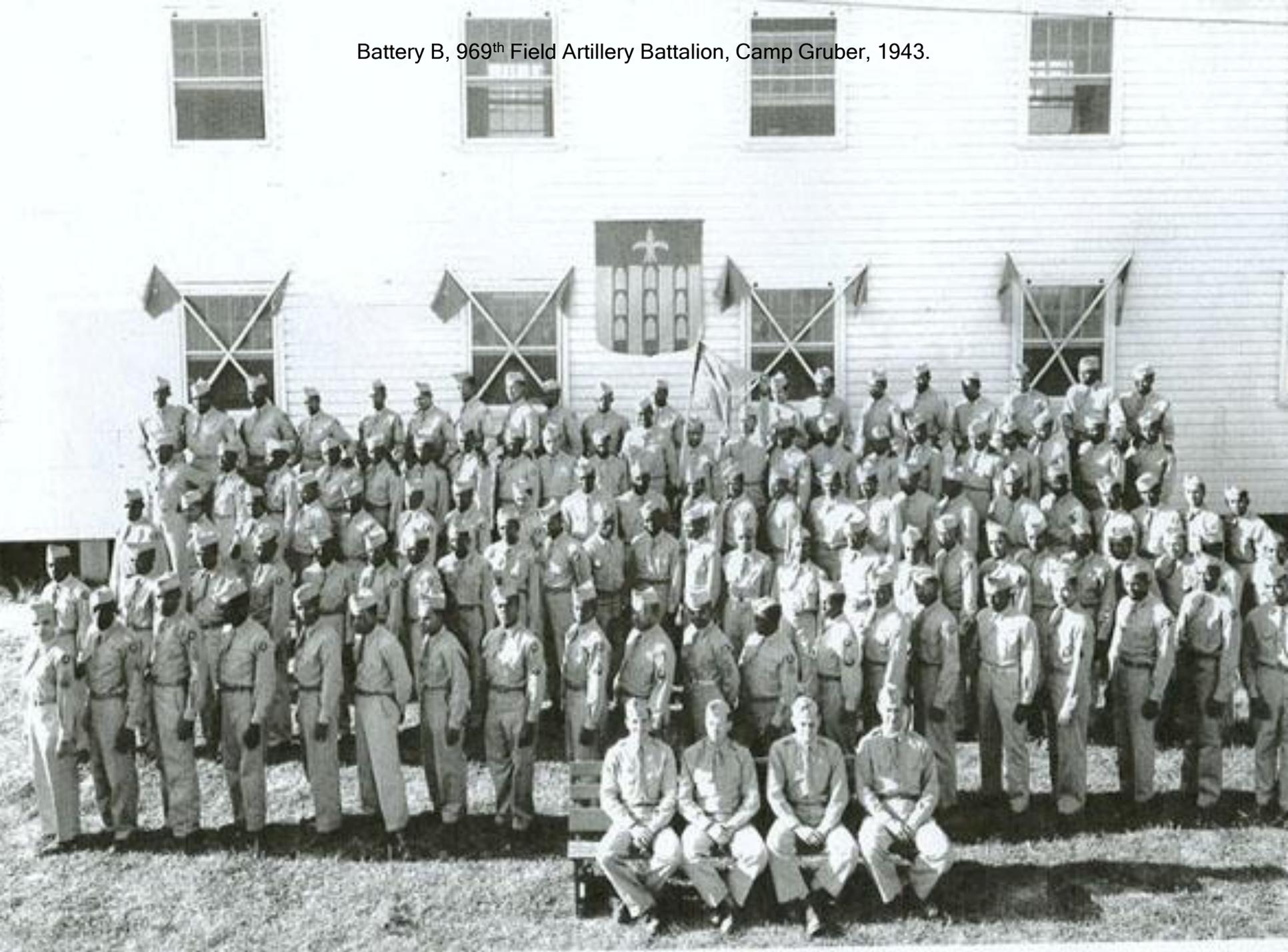


The 333rd Field Artillery (FA) Regiment, an African-American 155mm howitzer regiment, was activated at Camp Gruber on 5 August 1942. This regiment included both the 333rd FA Battalion and the 969th FA Battalion. On 2 February 1944, the regiment departed Camp Gruber for New York before deployment to the European Theater of Operations.

At the onset of the Battle of the Bulge, the 333rd FA Battalion supported the 106th Division and was located just 11 miles behind the front lines. On the second day of battle, they were overrun, many of whom were captured or killed. Eleven soldiers from the 333rd FA Battalion became separated from their unit: Private Curtis Adams, Corporeal Mager Bradley, Private First Class George Davis, Staff Sergeant Thomas J. Forte, Private Robert Green, Private First Class Jim Leatherwood, Private Nathaniel Moss, Private First Class George W. Moten, Technical Sergeant William E. Pritchett, Technical Sergeant James A. Stewart, and Private Due W. Turner. While attempting to reach American lines, these eleven found themselves in the small hamlet of Wereth, which is located in Eastern Belgium. Cold, hungry, and exhausted, they found shelter at the home of Mathias Langer. Unfortunately, a Nazi sympathizer notified the 1st SS Division of their presence. On 17 December 1944, soldiers from the 1st SS Division arrived at the Langer home. The eleven surrendered without resistance in an effort to protect the Langer family from reprisal. They were forced to sit on the road until dark; then they were marched into the field behind the Langer home where they were tortured, maimed and shot. Their bodies were not recovered until the spring thaw. More information concerning the Wereth 11 can be found at the U.S. Wereth Memorial website (www.wereth.org) and the Aubrey Stewart Project website (www.theaubreystewartproject.com).

The remaining 333rd FA Battalion were incorporated into its sister unit, the 969th FA Battalion, and ordered to Bastogne to provide support to the 101st Airborne Division during the Siege of Bastogne. For their pivotal role and valor, they were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the first African-American combat unit to receive this distinguished award during World War II. They also received the Belgian *Croix de Guerre* (War Cross) with Palm for their heroic actions at Bastogne.

Battery B, 969th Field Artillery Battalion, Camp Gruber, 1943.



Battery B, 969th Field Artillery Battalion, Camp Gruber, date unknown.



Greenleaf Lodge

The following photographs document the construction of Greenleaf Lodge by the Works Progress Administration circa 1937. The originals are on display at Greenleaf State Park. The lodge was constructed as part of the Greenleaf Lake Recreation Area, a project under the Cookson Hills Redevelopment Project, Resettlement Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Greenleaf Lodge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for its association to historic events and under Criterion C for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of the Rustic park architecture. In addition the lodge, is a contributing element to the Greenleaf State Park historic district.

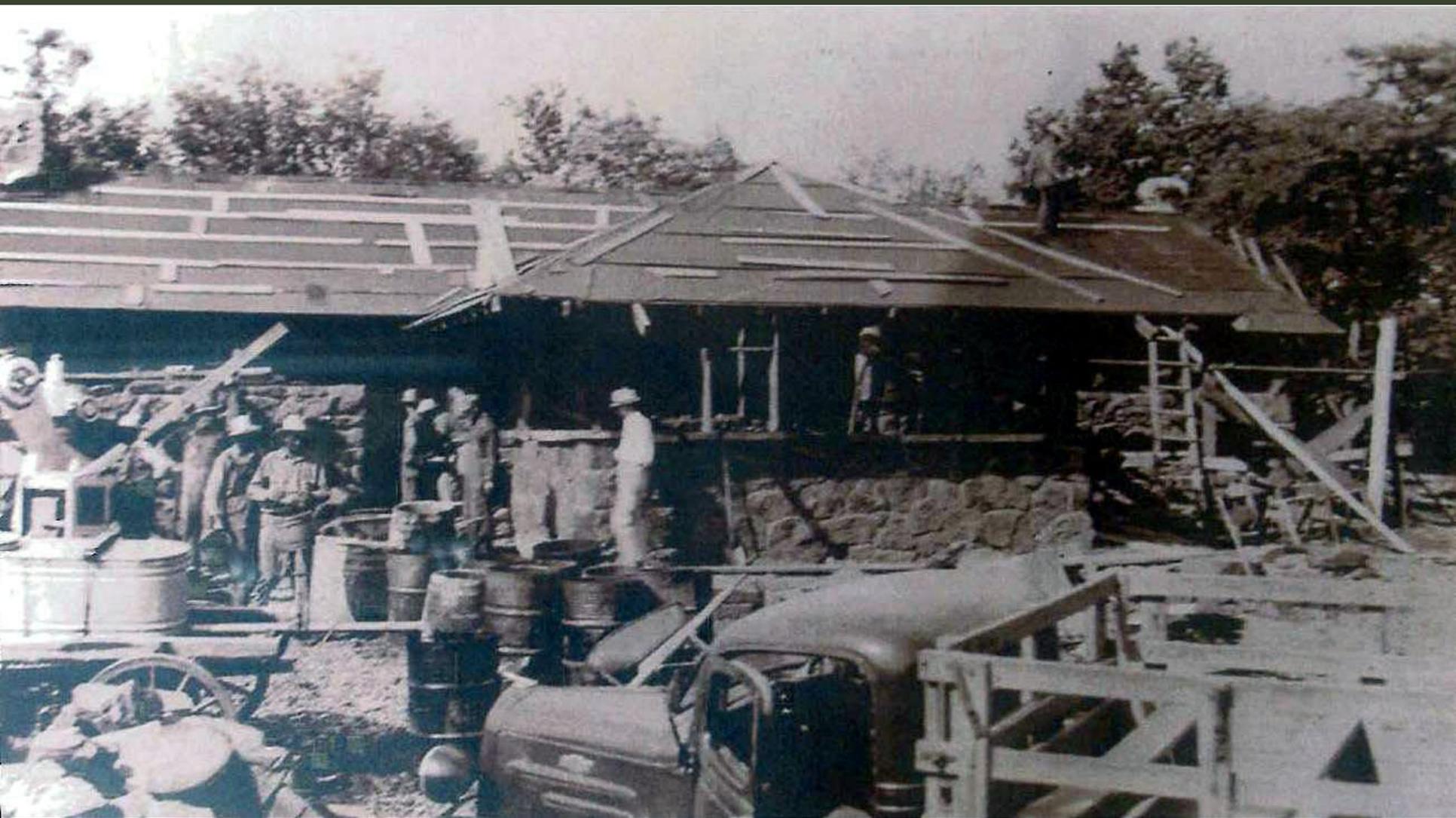
The 6,365-square foot lodge is constructed from native sandstone and is adapted to the topography by appearing to sit low on the ground. It is flanked on either end by flagstone patios. The rear entrance opens onto a terrace that overlooks Greenleaf Lake - an awe-inspiring view any time of the year. Other features include a hip and gabled roof, large rough-hewn timbers, exposed rafters, decorative beams, and two exterior chimneys. The two fireplaces have decorative iron grillwork crafted by Ed Boatright, a local blacksmith.

During World War II, Greenleaf Lodge was used as one of the three Officers' Clubs associated with Camp Gruber. At the end of the war, Camp Gruber was deemed surplus property and closed. In 1954, Greenleaf State Park was opened. Greenleaf Lodge was one of the few places that people could go on a Saturday night. Many bands played at the lodge before they became famous - Earnest Tubb, Bob Willis, Johnnie Lee Wills, Leon McAlluff and others.





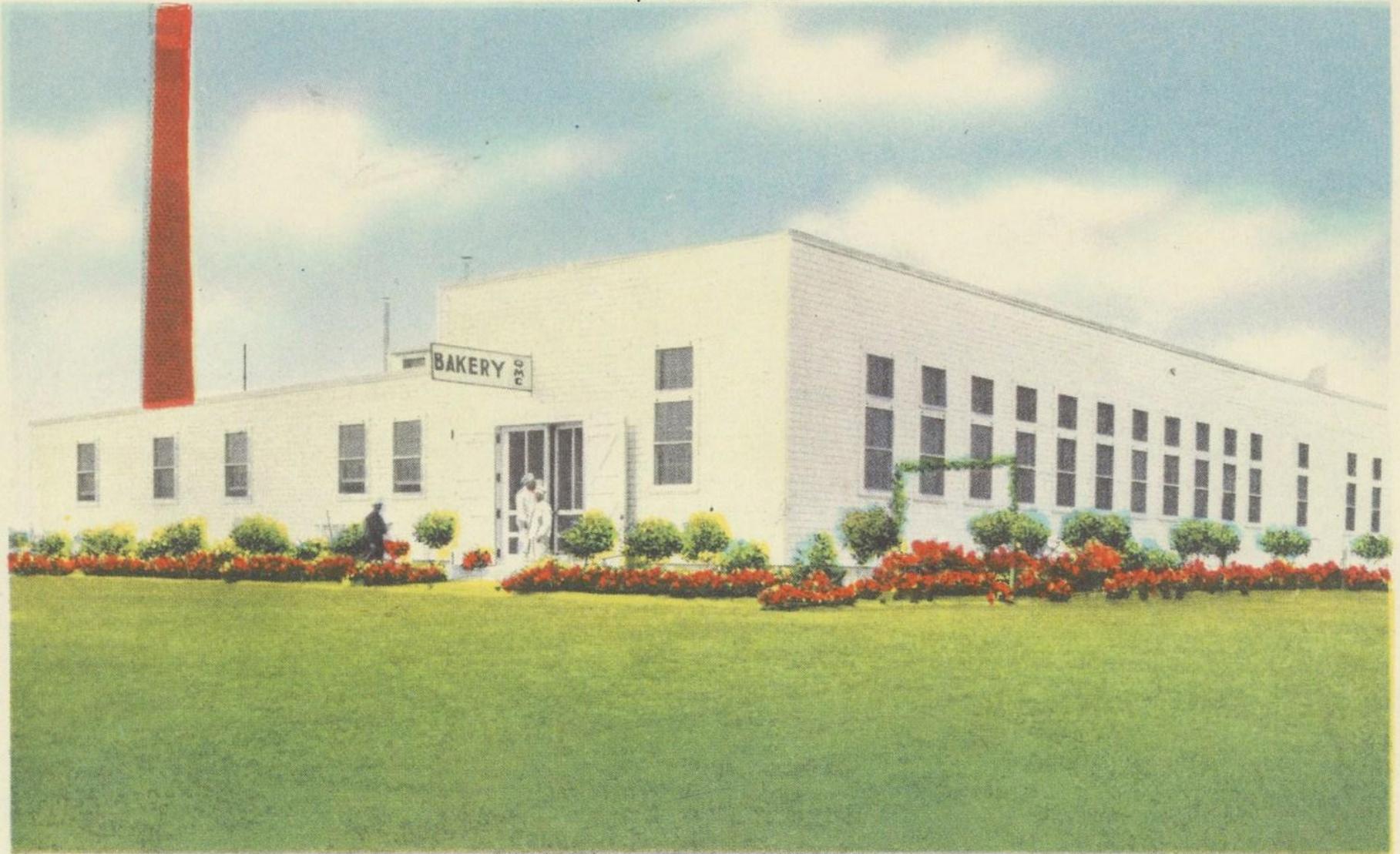






The following postcards were published in the 1940s as part of the Camp Gruber memorabilia that was available at that time. The Camp Gruber Environmental Office houses the original postcard booklet in which many of the following are found. Copies are also available at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

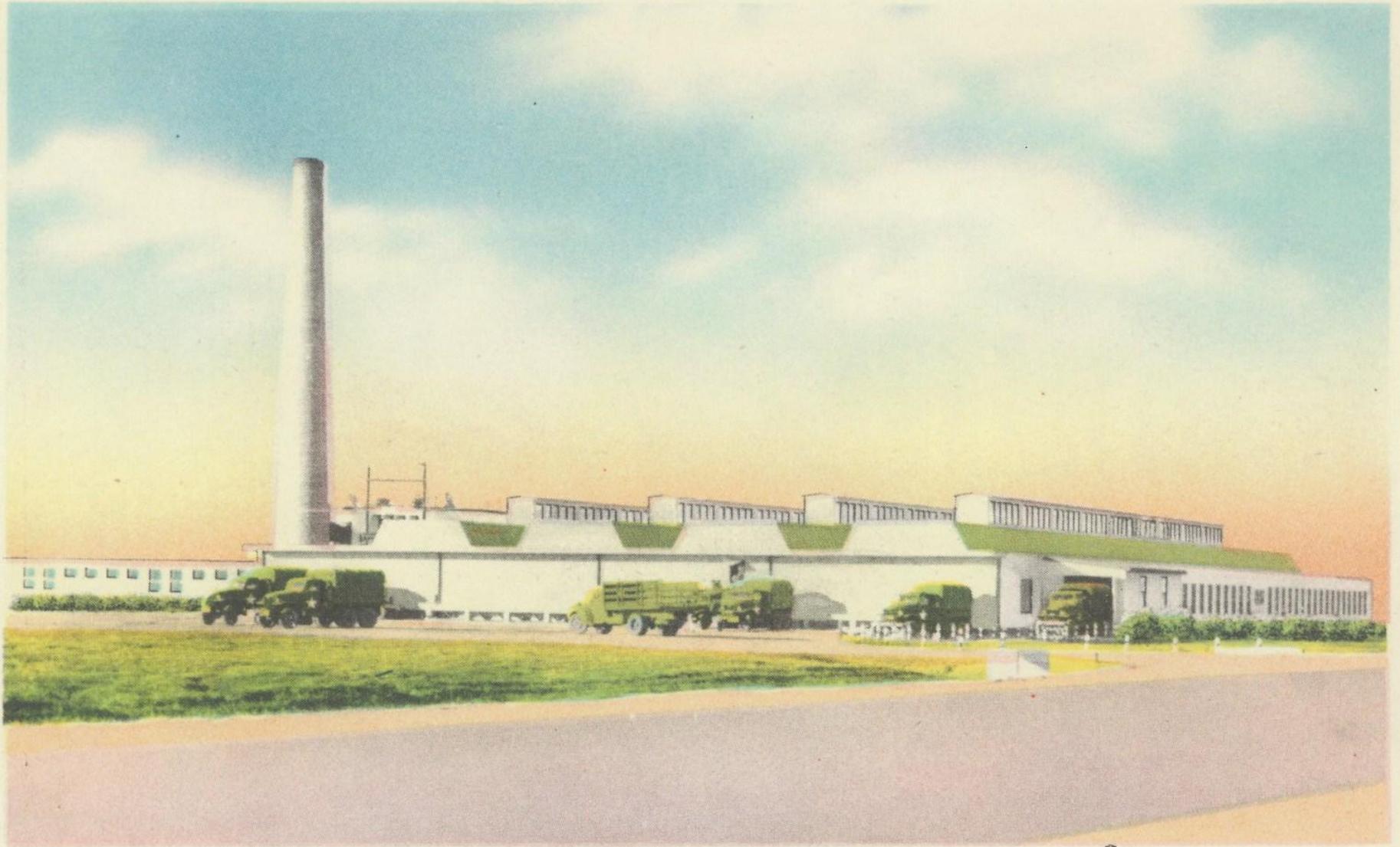
BAKERY, CAMP GRUBER



 SIG. C., U. S. ARMY

Camp bakery has a capacity of 24,000 loaves of bread every 16 hours.

LAUNDRY, CAMP GRUBER



 SIG. C., U. S. ARMY

Laundry operated with a capacity of 3,800 bundles per 8-hour shift - output of 36,595 pieces daily. It served the military organizations and personnel of Camp Gruber, Muskogee Army Air Field, Tulsa M.A.P., the POW Camp, and Glennan General Hospital. It was the most efficient laundry in the entire Eighth Services Command and the second most efficient in the entire United States military set-up.

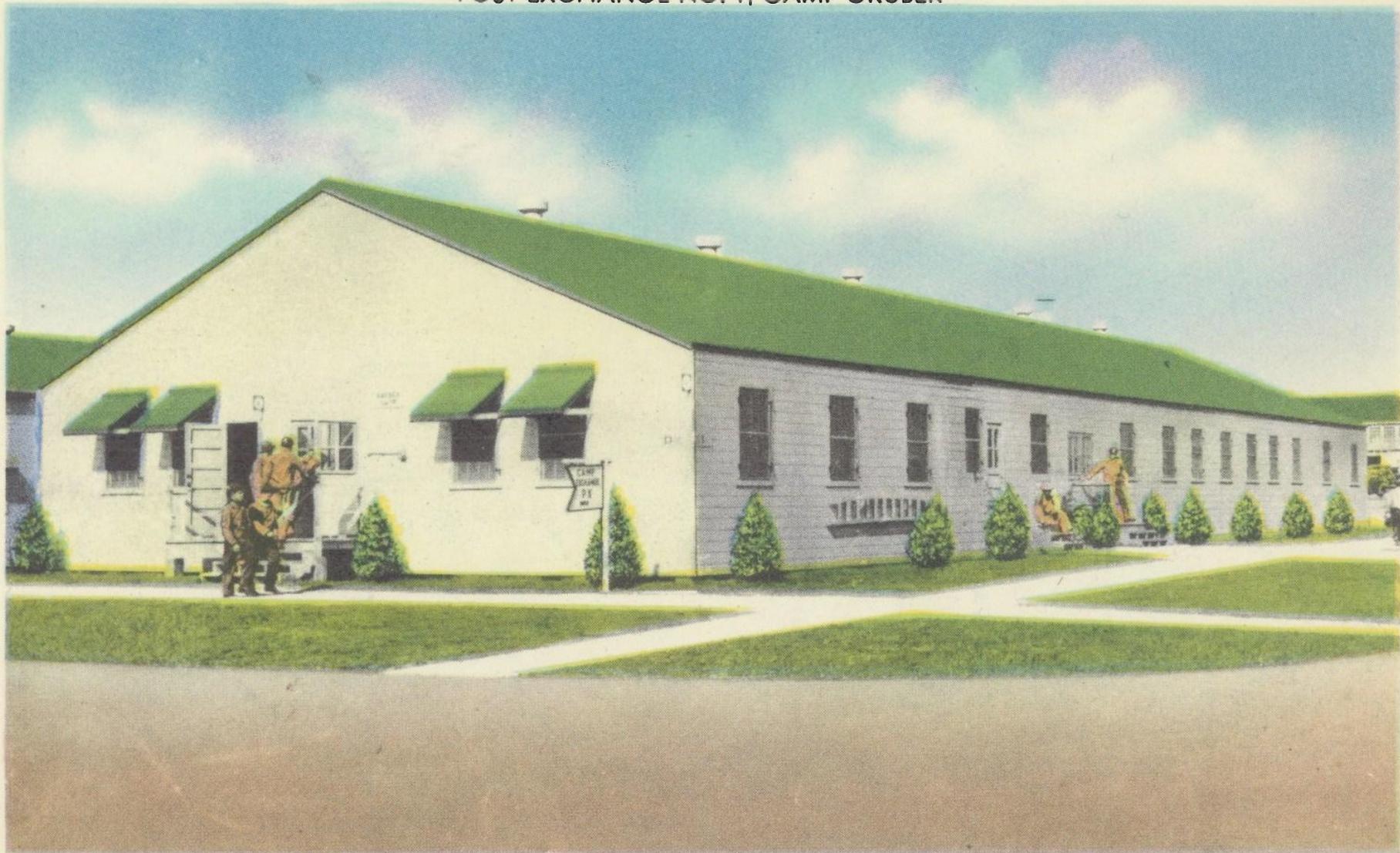
GUEST HOUSE NO. 1. CAMP GRUBER



 SIG. C., U. S. ARMY

There were 3 guest houses located at Camp Gruber. The one pictured above was located on the corner of North Gruber Drive (now Anzio Drive) and 4th Street. One was located on 19th Street between C and D Streets (now Southern France and Rhineland Roads). Guest House #3 was located on G Street between 19th and 20th Streets.

POST EXCHANGE NO. 1, CAMP GRUBER



 SIG. C., U. S. ARMY

There were 19 Post Exchanges (PXs) located throughout Camp Gruber, including one at the POW Camp. In addition, there were 15 barber shops, 2 beauty shops, 8 tailor shops, 13 cleaning and pressing pick-up stations, a photo studio and service station associated with the various PXs.

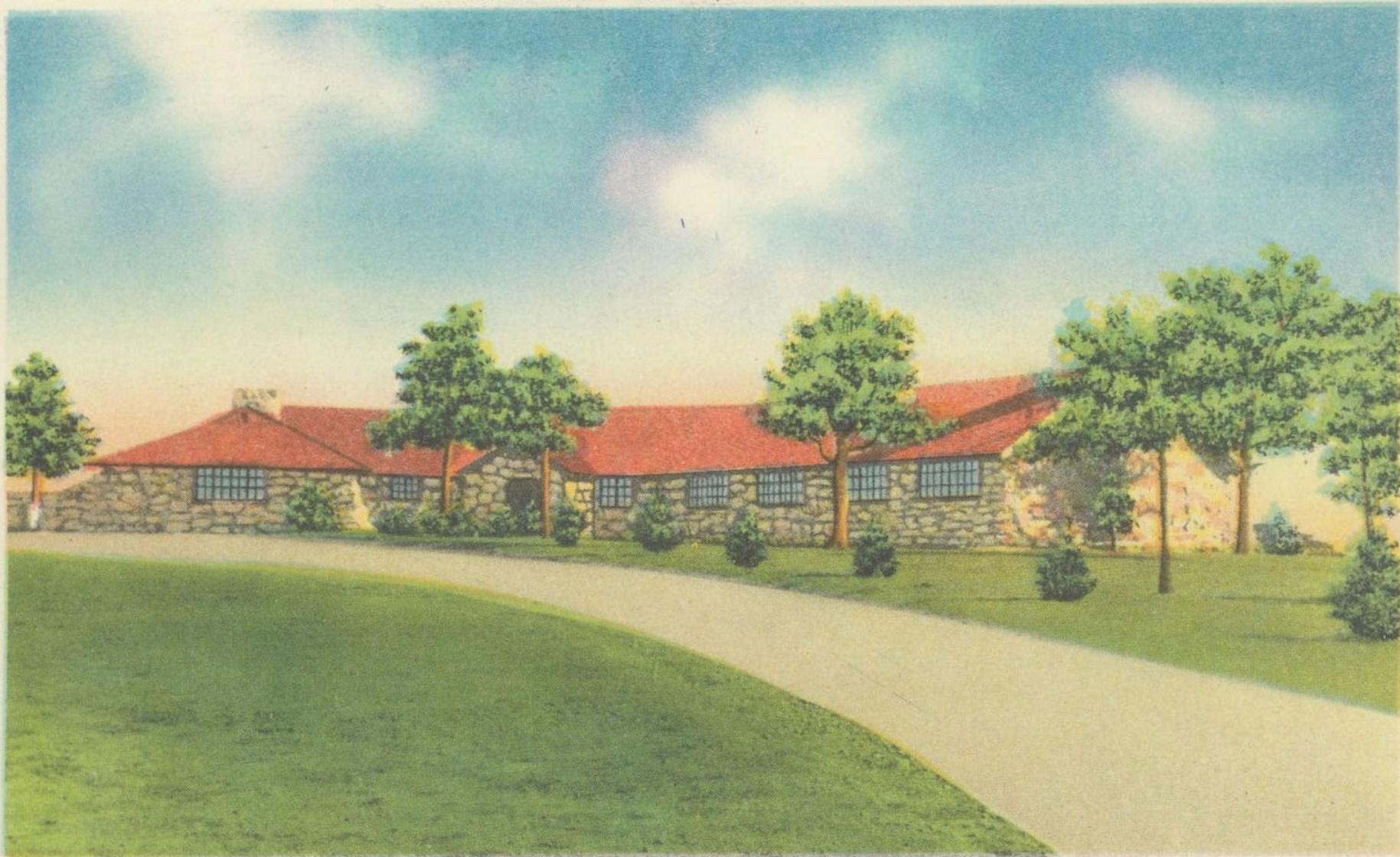
CAMP HEADQUARTERS, CAMP GRUBER



 SIG. C., U. S. ARMY

Camp Headquarters was located at the intersection of 3rd Street and, what is now known as, Anzio Gate. The following offices were located within it: Public Relations Office, Judge Advocate, Range Control, Plans and Training Office, Inspector General, Billeting Office, Rationing Office, Claims Office, Camp Commander, and Camp Executive Officer.

GREENLEAF LODGE, CAMP GRUBER



 SIG. C., U. S. ARMY

Constructed circa 1937 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as part of the Greenleaf Lake Recreation Area, Greenleaf Lodge served as one of three Officers' Clubs at Camp Gruber.

Oklahoma
Historical
Society®

FIELD HOUSE, CAMP GRUBER



 SIG. C., U. S. ARMY

The Field House, or Sports Arena, was equipped for almost any type of athletic recreation, including badminton, basketball, volleyball, weight lifting, boxing, et cetera. In December 1943, Joe Louis gave a boxing exhibition here. On 13 October 1944, a circus was held at the Field House, "complete with dust and peanuts, aerial acts, trained horses, clowns and a 6,100 pound elephant."

GREETINGS *from*

Camp

GRUBER

OKLAHOMA

*Greetings
from*

CAMP GRUBER



NATIVE STATE OF WILL ROGERS, FAMOUS HUMORIST